

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



NEWS

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Fairgrounds Concessionaires Charged with Felony Theft of Sales Tax, Engaging in Business after License Revocation

EPHRATA, Wash., Aug. 1, 2005 — The operators of food concessions at the Grant County Fairgrounds were charged today with felony counts of stealing state sales tax and continuing to engage in business under aliases after their business license was revoked.

Joy A. Stewart and Joaquin T. Duzon, Jr., of Wilson Creek, face maximum penalties of five years imprisonment and/or a \$10,000 fine on each of three counts, plus restitution and assessments.

The charges were brought by the Financial Crimes Unit of the Attorney General's Office at the request of the Washington State Department of Revenue.

According to charging papers filed in Grant County Superior Court, the pair operated J&J Concessions at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake in 2002 without a license, and then after they were involuntarily registered by the Department of Revenue, had their license revoked for failure to pay delinquent taxes. Using aliases of James T. Duzon, Jim Divito, Joy Duzon, and Joy A. Divito, they formed Top Gun Concessions and Divito Catering to resume doing business at the fairgrounds, again without a license, until the Department discovered their use of aliases to circumvent the closure of their first business.

Despite evidence that Top Gun and Divito Catering had collected tax on sales at the fairgrounds, most of the tax was never forwarded to the Department of Revenue.

Arraignment was set for 10 a.m. Aug. 16.

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